

THE INTELLIGENCER. LOCAL MATTERS.

Corros—Midwinters, 101 to 104 cents.
Rev. Wm. Henry Strickland will preach next Sunday at 3 o'clock p. m. at New Prospect Church.
Another drove of hogs arrived in Anderson during the past week. They sold out at 64 cents gross.

Col. E. M. Rucker delivered an eloquent address before the Grange at Willford's Store on last Saturday.
The pastor of the Baptist Church will preach to his congregation on next Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m. on "Borrowing Trouble."

We would call attention to the advertisement of the County Commissioners relative to the fences required under the new fence law.
Mr. E. B. Telford has had a horse, saddle and bridle stolen from him at Bolton. We hope the thief may be caught and properly punished.

Quite a number of Masons and other citizens also have availed themselves of the present excursion rates to make a visit to the city of Charleston.
Mr. O. H. P. Fant has on hand fifty ten pound caddies of choice Tobacco, which can be bought at the lowest prices for cash. Call and see the quality, and you will be surprised at the cheapness of its price.

Rev. H. F. Christberg, the pastor of the Methodist Church at this place, is absent from his charge for the purpose of attending the South Carolina Conference. We hope he will be re-assigned to Anderson for the ensuing year.
Rev. W. H. Strickland, the popular pastor of the Anderson Baptist Church, has just refused a very flattering call to the Church at Greensboro, Ga. His many friends in this community are glad that he will not be induced to leave Anderson.

We are indebted to Hon. D. Wyatt Aiken, member of Congress from this District, for a copy of the memorial addresses delivered upon the occasions of the death of Hon. M. C. Kerr, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and of Hon. A. T. Caperton, Senator from West Virginia.

The cotton shipments from this depot, up to the first of December from the opening of the cotton season, amounted to 5,000 bales, which is a considerable increase over last year, and shows that Anderson is improving as a cotton market. This is the place to sell cotton high and buy goods cheap.

We would call attention to the advertisement of Messrs. Sloan & Co. This popular confectionery is under the management of Mr. D. Prue Sloan who, among the youngest business men in town, has displayed great enterprise and energy, and deserves a very liberal patronage. In making your preparation for Christmas be sure to call at this store.

We are requested to announce that Sandy Springs Grange will meet at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning, the 15th inst. Matters of importance will be presented to the Grange upon that occasion, and the annual election for officers will be held. All members of this Grange are requested to be present, and the members of other Granges are invited also to attend.

At the last regular communication of Hiram Lodge, No. 68, A. F. M., held in the lodge room, Dec. 10th, 1877, the following officers were elected and installed to serve the ensuing year: J. N. Vandiver, W. M.; W. C. Andrews, S. W.; Rufus S. Hill, J. W.; J. A. Brock, Treas.; J. Pink Reed, Sec.; J. Willet Prevost, S. D.; W. T. W. Harrison, J. D.; J. M. Payne and D. M. Stephens, Stewards; E. F. Murrell, Tyler.

Mr. G. W. Fant has a large and choice collection of fine note papers and beautiful books at the post office book store, which he has brought on to supply the demand for elegant Christmas presents in that line. No more appropriate or acceptable holiday present can be made to either child or grown person than a book. He has also a large stock of stationery, and no better place to supply the demand for such a present can be found than at Mr. Fant's.

The attention of our Democratic Clubs is called to the fact that a number of the poorest members of our clubs went to Columbia last year at the time money was called for to sustain our struggling government, and paid their own expenses, which they were not able to do in justice to themselves. These expenses should be returned to such men by their respective clubs. It has not been already attended to. Where it has been neglected too long now, and should be promptly looked after by each club.

Mrs. Sallie Fant, relict of the late Alfred Fant, died at her residence below Bolton, in this County, on Monday, the 3rd instant. Mrs. Fant was 67 years of age, and though advanced in years, was active and in usual health until a short time before her death. She had been a consistent member of the Baptist Church for about 24 years, and died in the full hope of the resurrection of her faith. She leaves eight sons and daughters who, in common with a host of relatives and friends, mourn the death of her whom all who knew her loved.

Rev. J. C. Hudson, a regularly authorized agent for the collection of bonds due Furman University, and the interest on them, is in Anderson for the purpose of collecting the amounts due upon the bonds subscribed to the endowment of the University by citizens of this County. The Furman University is doing a great work in the cause of education, and is the only institution of learning of high order in South Carolina which offers tuition free. We hope that all persons who feel to meet their obligations to this University, and by so doing give it the assistance they have promised.

CROOKED WHISKY.
United States Deputy Marshal F. A. Daniels, with two or three assistants, arrested three dealers in crooked whiskey in the Fork portion of this County, and started with them to Anderson, on last Thursday, on the way a portion of Mr. Daniels' assistants dropped behind, and after traveling a short distance, the prisoners drew pistols and shot at one of the assistants, who was precipitately leaving Mr. Daniels by himself, and the other two desperate criminals fled. The arrested dealer then disarmed him and told him they would come no further with him, but would make him a present of their whiskey, which they directed him to remove from the wagon. He did this, and they then turned their wagon and left in haste for Georgia. Every good citizen ought to seek to stop this unlawful traffic, and these wares should not be allowed to infect any community. If they will persist in traveling through this County, we hope that all good citizens will assist, as far as possible, in arresting and bringing them to punishment.

DISASTROUS BOARD.
Any one desiring of obtaining board in a private family, whose dwelling is conveniently situated for business, can get useful information by calling at this office. Gentlemen preferred.

VENUS KISSING THE MOON.
On last Saturday evening the planet Venus, which is at its greatest eastern elongation, and in its most brilliant phase, presented a very interesting sight to those who watched its passage of the moon.
At a little before eight o'clock the planet was observed to be rapidly approaching the young moon, and soon appeared to be resting upon the opaque outline of that body, and gradually sank downward until the bright planet appeared to rest for a short time upon the upturned horn of our earth's satellite. The sight was as beautiful as any astronomical view we have ever witnessed, and by slow degrees passed off as the bright planet dropped downward to the horizon, and left the moon far behind it. In the northern latitudes the planet passed entirely behind the moon's surface, and disappeared from view, producing an eclipse of Venus, or what astronomers would term an occultation of Venus, but in this latitude the star only described a tangent to the moon, and was only partially obscured from vision. This phenomenon is of very rare occurrence.

THE USURY LAW.
The discussion of the Usury Law has brought to a portion of the Anderson delegation in the House of Representatives. In the debate on last Saturday, Dr. W. C. Brown obtained the floor, and advocated the passage of the bill.
He proved that, from the earliest ages up to the present time, those countries which had adopted usury laws had been the most prosperous. His speech was short, animated, argumentative, solid and abounding in common, practical, good sense. It was rhetorical, and he enforced his views of the law by a series of historical illustrations pertinent to the question. He drew an account of the revolution until reformed, when the rate of interest was limited, and contrasting it with our deplorable financial condition at present, drew the self-evident inference and conclusion that the usury law did not do us any harm in the days of our highest prosperity, and also that the repeal of the law had by no means brought about the anticipated flood of riches so confidently expected by the money-lender. He maintained that the repeal of the "usury law," and the passage of the famous "lien law" and the "Black Code" occurred about the same time, and were not the result of mature deliberation, but that the legislators at that time were in a manner misled and misguided by the misfortune which had overtaken them. He contended that the most civilized and enlightened nations of the earth had always had laws of this kind, and they were regarded as the best of scientific political economy. The most celebrated rulers of the world, he said, have been guided by this opinion; for instance, Moses, Justinian, Queen Elizabeth, James the First and others, and the rate of interest was reduced to a reasonable limit. He also contended, saying that the tendency and natural result of the legislation of the recent past was to build up one part of our people and pull down another to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Capt. R. W. Simpson also advocated the bill in a very strong argument.
He said he was not willing that the people of South Carolina should be governed by the views and idle speculation of visionary theorists. I contend that if we pass this bill that not only would the planter, the merchant, and the mechanic prosper, but the whole people would prosper. The opponents of the bill are proceeding on a false basis. We want money, but do not want to pay exorbitant rates for it. There is no danger of money not coming here if we pass the law, for even then we will pay a higher rate of interest than is paid in many States. The system which we have pursued since the war is ruinous. In our poor, distracted, disturbed country we have no real property. It is all a mere bubble, a delusion, a mistake. The opponents of the bill say it won't make any difference whether this law is passed or not, and yet they are making strenuous exertion to prevent its passage. During Mr. Simpson's speech, the hour for adjournment arrived, and the House adjourned until 11 o'clock Monday.

When the House met on Monday Mr. R. W. Simpson, who held the floor on Saturday, continued his argument in favor of the bill.
He said those who had advocated the theoretical visionary political economists and false theorists did not believe in arguments which they had advanced; they did not conform to the evidences of their senses. Money has been borrowed by the people for years past. Talk about banks! I know a man who, a short time ago, went to a bank to borrow a small amount of money and presented the very best collateral, but the bank refused to lend him the money. A merchant, coming a few miles later, took the same collateral, but he was forced to pay the most exorbitant rate of interest. Talk about theories! Why, our whole country is languishing on account of the enormous rate of interest which our people have to pay for money. I do not claim that if we pass the bill it will benefit the people of the community, but that the planter, the merchant, the mechanic and the professional man will all be benefited. The present system of money lending and borrowing is a disastrous one, and if not abolished will eventually sink the whole State in bankruptcy.

Mr. Orr followed in favor of the bill. He confined himself to the consideration of banks and banking institutions, and how they would be benefited by the passage of the usury law. He said that all national banks doing business in South Carolina would be as much bound by the law as private banking houses.

SLABTOWN.
As the contributions of your localists seem to be perused by your readers with much interest, permit me, as an itinerant, to present a few "dots" occasionally from portions of the County to which my business may call me. To-night finds me in Slabtown, a section of as great notoriety, perhaps, as any in the State. So fertile is the soil of Slabtown, so varied and complete are its social and religious advantages, and so intellectual and moral are its citizens, that it has attained a celebrity analogous to the settlements of our progenitors along the Atlantic. Time, in its despotism, course and the demoralizing effects of war, have wrought many potent changes in Slabtown. Many of the elite, who once lent it so many charms, so much of its beauty and grace, have left the County and even the State, to enlist under different banners in the great contest of life. However, a few yet remain to draw to the city and anxieties of life, and to inspire a youthful knight, in life's drama, with virtue and patriotism, and to possess sterling qualities of worth. Another manifest change in Slabtown has reference to its educational advantages. In the palmy days of South Carolina, Slabtown was the Athens of the upper part of the State. Many of the most eminent men in the Southern States owe most of their greatness to the knowledge and the moral training which they received while in the great seat of life. However, a few yet remain to draw to the city and anxieties of life, and to inspire a youthful knight, in life's drama, with virtue and patriotism, and to possess sterling qualities of worth. Another manifest change in Slabtown has reference to its educational advantages. In the palmy days of South Carolina, Slabtown was the Athens of the upper part of the State. 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